

Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments

October 25, 2023

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments was held as a virtual meeting via Google Meet.

Commissioners Present: Nancy Kurtz, Lauren Schiszik, Ellen B. Chase, C. Ryan Patterson, Cheryl A. Jewitt, Gail Schnell, Peter Morrill, Jenny M. Carson, Ph.D., Susan Cooke Soderberg, Raymond H. Shipley Jr., Stephen S. Hammond, Hon. Victor Kuras Butanis

MDP Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Stacy Montgomery

I. CALL TO ORDER

Stacy Montgomery, sitting in for the Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. A quorum of Commissioners was recorded as present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Montgomery called for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Hammond made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kurtz, that the April 26, 2023 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public were present who wished to provide comment.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Montgomery presented the financial report.

FY2023

- \$150,000 general fund item for stripping and rewaxing of all 41 monuments – contract awarded to Art Solutions Lab, LLC in the amount of \$184,422.59. The \$150,000 in FY2023 general funds awarded through the capital budgeting process was supplemented with \$34,422.59 in agency general funds. The first phase of the work was completed in September and October of 2023. The second phase will commence in spring of 2024.
- \$17,000 general fund item to support conservation of miscellaneous projects, to include:

M348: World War II Monument, Keedysville

M404: Kenmore High School World War II Plaque, Elkton
M164: Civil War Tablets (GAR), Cherry Hill Cemetery, Elkton

FY2024

- \$17,000 general fund item for 2025 maintenance and conservation of Central Region monuments (Maintenance Group 1)

M348: Keedysville World War II Monument (\$14,775)

V. OLD BUSINESS

Art Solutions Lab Contract

Ms. Montgomery presented a PowerPoint summary of the conservation work undertaken by Art Solutions Lab, LLC in September of 2023 to 10 monuments in the first phase. The presentation included before and after photos and descriptions of the work.

Maryland History Day Prize – FY24

Elizabeth Hughes gave an overview of the proposal to sponsor a prize at Maryland History Day. At the October 2022 meeting of the Commission, Commissioners voted in favor of sponsoring a History Day prize as part of the Maryland Humanities Council History Day program at a cost of \$500. The sponsorship will support 2 prizes, one at the junior and one at the senior level. Students receive a \$150 cash prize and the remaining donation goes to support the administration of the contest (including purchasing of plaques for the winners).

Options for Consideration

Two suggested titles and descriptions for the MMMC prize are described below. Action by the Commission to select one of these approaches, or propose an alternative, is needed.

Option 1

Title: Excellence in Military History, sponsored by the Maryland Military Monuments Commission

Description: This prize is awarded to projects involving any aspect of military history, including commemorative artworks, architecture, programs, events, etc., associated with military service.

Option 2

Title: Excellence in the Study of History and Commemoration*, sponsored by the Maryland Military Monuments Commission

Description: This prize is awarded to projects involving the study of any aspect of commemorative historical activities, including artworks, architecture, programs, events, etc., and an analysis of their meaning then and now.

The Commission voted to identify the subject and title of the prize. Ms. Hughes read both options. Commissioner Mendleson, who was not present, put forth Option 1. Commissioner Soderberg put forth Option 2 and asked that the title be edited to “Excellence in the Study of the History of Commemoration.”*

Commissioner Butanis made a motion to approve Option 1. Commissioner Hammond seconded the motion. The Commission voted to approve Option 1 (8 in favor, 3 opposed).

Commissioners asked the staff to follow up with the Maryland Humanities Council to ensure that the proposed prize title isn’t too narrow.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Request for Update on War of 1812 Cannon Found in South Baltimore Peninsula

Commissioner Hammond asked for an update on the cannon from several years ago that was relocated. Commissioner Butanis suggested that it was a War of 1812 cannon and that as he recalled a home was found for it. Commissioner Schiszik shared that it was found in the Baltimore Peninsula and was given to a War of 1812 group by the owner. Staff to follow up. (After the meeting Commissioner Schiszik provided an article about this that Ms. Montgomery shared with the Commissioners in a follow up email.)

Potential Sponsorship of Work in Memorial Grove, Druid Hill Park, Baltimore City

Commissioner Morrill suggested that the commission look into sponsoring work on the Memorial Grove in Druid Hill Park in Baltimore City. He suggested a potential partnership with Baltimore City Rec & Parks and looked toward Commissioners Patterson and Schiszik for feedback. Commissioner Morrill shared that the monument will be 100 and is highly visible to the public and suggested utilizing the commission’s ability to fundraise to pay for it.

MSAC Conservation Grants Program

Commissioner Patterson shared that the Maryland State Art Council’s Public Art Across Maryland Conservation Grant is accepting applications and that monuments would be good candidates for this grant. He shared that last year an award was used for the Union Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Wyman Park in Baltimore City. Commissioner Kurtz shared that she had helped the City of Elkton apply for the grant last year for their military monuments, but hasn’t had any follow up, but may see if they are interested in applying again.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the Commission will take place on April 24, 2024. In the intervening months, Ms. Montgomery will identify opportunities for Commissioners to observe monument conservation work being undertaken as part of the \$150,000 project if members of the Commission are interested and available. Ms. Montgomery will send a follow-up email about this.

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.